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JUST A LITTLE TIGHTER — Len Ware Jr., of Lexington, a heating and air conditioning major at Holmes Community College in Goodman, repairs a water fountain at Central Church, Bladensburg, Md. (Photo by Tim Nicholas)

WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

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BSUers put muscle into missions trips

By Tim Nicholas
MBCB staff writer

Editor's note: Spring break! Sleep late? Not for hundreds of Mississippi Baptist Student Union (BSU) members who scattered across the country during their spring break to take advantage of missions opportunities. BSUers traveled to Maryland and Delaware, where Mississippi Baptists enjoy a partnership relationship with the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware, to participate in partnership missions projects involving on-campus witnessing, music, inner city ministry, and church and camp renovations. Following is the second of a three-part series.

Taking a break from ripping plaster off the walls of a cabin at a Baptist camp in Maryland, Ashley Walker of Swiftown said, "We're doing the Lord's work — actual manual labor. We're his hands!"

Walker, a student at Mississippi Delta Community College (MDCC) in Moorhead, was a member of one of several Mississippi BSU groups which spent spring break doing physical labor for the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware.

Ten students and three adults traveled from Moorhead to Camp Wo-Me-To at Jarrettsville,

Md., to strip three cabins to the studded walls. Adults from Lebanon Association, Hattiesburg, will also help with the renovation in May.

In addition, a team of 19 students and their leaders from Hinds Community College (HCC) in Raymond and Holmes Community College in Goodman did basic repairs and renovations to Central Church in Bladensburg, Md.

"Students take back a vision of ministry," said Tom McLaughlin, BSU director at MDCC. "They find out they can do things they never thought they could do before."

"A lot (of the BSUers) come back with a different attitude of servanthood, serving unselfishly without reward because (they) love Jesus," McLaughlin said.

Chris Gilder, a student at Delta State University in Cleveland, said his opportunity to go to Maryland clearly came from God.

"I had just come off of an exciting DiscipleNow weekend. It was impactful, and I prayed for another opportunity to serve God," he said.

The next day he got an invitation to join a team going to Maryland. Knocking down wood and fixtures, "is very, very fun," he said.

HCC student Kerry Reed of Brandon spent her spring break repairing the Bladensburg church.

"A little part of me wanted to stay home and sleep, but I

felt I was supposed to come for a reason," she said.

While Reed painted a hallway in the church, she observed, "We're supposed to come and minister to these people, and they have ministered to us. They are so excited to have us here."

Pastor David Grimley wrote in the church newsletter in advance of the BSUers' trip, "These young people are truly missionaries of the goodness of God."

The sad part of the mission trip was that the renovations were designed to get the church ready for either sale or merger with another congregation. With only about 50 active members, the congregation can't maintain the facility.

So in three-and-a-half days, the students painted the church from stem to stern; from the stairwells to roof; did electrical work; and replaced or repaired virtually all plumbing fixtures.

The two BSU groups also led in worship services, sang in a mall, and led a Hispanic Bible study.

Houston Havens of West, a student at Holmes Community College, said although he believes he is not a good speaker, "We're supposed to show Jesus through our words and deeds."

"I've grown a bit about knowing how to witness. I see there are a lot of people who haven't heard anything about Jesus. They think we're crazy," he said.



FRESH COAT OF PAINT — Lisa Alexander (kneeling) of West, a student at Holmes Community College in Goodman, gets her nose into her work as she and Lynn Acker of Brandon, a student at Hinds Community College in Raymond, paint an entrance to Central Church in Bladensburg, Md. (Photo by Tim Nicholas)

David Crenshaw of Brandon, a student at HCC, said he liked "watching God work through each of us. It's not like we're working, because I'm enjoying it."

Julius Goodwin, Central Church's building chairman, supervised the Mississippi volunteers. "I've never seen kids so willing, so helpful, so well trained. There's no way I can describe what they have meant to us," he said.

Karen Ivy, BSU director at Holmes Community College, said one evening's devotional period lasted two hours. "They had so much to share. Their hearts have been softened up."

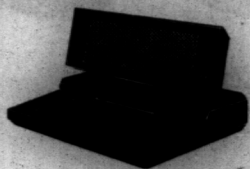
Mississippi BSUers personally raised funds to pay their way to the spring break mission trips.

For more information on BSU ministries in Mississippi, contact Weaver McCracken, Collegiate Ministry Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3302 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651. E-mail: wmccracken@mbcb.org.



SPRING BREAK MISSION — Yolanda Melcher (left) of Indianola, Shirley Whittemore (center) of Greenwood, and Jennifer Curry of Carroll County — all students at Mississippi Delta Community College in Moorhead — help with the cleanup of a stripped cabin at Camp Wo-Me-To, a campground owned by the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware. (Photo by Tim Nicholas)

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Christians and the entertainment media

God, the Devil, and Bob is no more. In what could be conservatively described as a low-key announcement late last week, the NBC television network said the dreadful attempt at religious comedy would be pulled immediately from the Tuesday evening lineup.

For folks who may have been on another planet for the past couple of weeks or otherwise missed the tempest surrounding God, the Devil, and Bob, a primer is in order. God, the Devil, and Bob was a 30-minute animated series, reportedly dreamed up by a former seminary student, that featured God as an aimless hippie who likes to throw back a cold brew with his old pal, the Devil (and just about anyone else who will drink with him).

God and the Devil reach a friendly wager — if one decent soul can be found on the planet, God will spare his disappointing, imperfect creation. The two chums settle on Bob, an antisocial autoworker from Detroit.

Apparently, the entire season was to have revolved around God's efforts to convince Bob to save the world while the Devil manipulates Bob in hopes of getting the earth destroyed.

Does that sound like a winning sitcom formula around which to build a ratings giant? NBC apparently thought so — at least for a couple of weeks.

In a fit of arrested adolescence that also marked most of the show's humor, the producers of God, The Devil, and Bob launched into a meandering diatribe on their web site (www.godthedevilandbob.com) in which they blamed everyone except themselves for the show's demise.

"The show has been yanked off the air by NBC. It turns out the organized forces of evil managed to convince people that we should not be on the air. There are larger issues here, but let's not deal with them now," the web site stated.

The producers also encouraged supporters of the show to e-mail the NBC programming department to protest the cancellation.

"After all, it was a strategy that worked quite well for the people who wanted us off the air," according to the web site.

Forces of evil? Larger issues that can-

not be discussed right now? A strategy that worked quite well for the people who wanted the show off the air? Come on, fellows. Save a little credit for yourselves when it comes to the reasons the show failed.

The show failed because it deserved to fail. It deserved to fail because it was an exceedingly poor product that was insulting at best and blasphemous at worst.

Dan Modisett, president and general manager of WLBT-TV in Jackson, sparked a nationwide revolt among NBC affiliates when his station refused to broadcast even the pilot episode.

"WLBT received more than 2,000 calls, letters, and e-mails and about 90% of those were in support of our decision to preempt the show. This show should have never been created and certainly not aired on television.

"I would love to think 'Hollywood' got the message, but based on what has been produced lately, I don't have a lot of confidence in their morals," Modisett said.

There's good reason to question Hollywood's morals. During the recent Academy Awards, for example, most of the top Oscars went to American Beauty, a sordid tale of dysfunctional families in an American suburb that included illegal drug use, gratuitous family violence, pedophilia, and a number of other unwholesome subjects — in other words, standard fare for the entertainment products of today.

The only top Oscars that didn't go to American Beauty were taken by Boys Don't Cry, which detailed the mixed-up life and tragic death of a young girl who lived as a boy, and The Cider House Rules, which depicted a sensitive abortionist who also cared for orphans.

Are Christians so starved for entertainment that we'll help contribute to the \$117,000,000 box office for American Beauty? Or the \$53,000,000 earned by The Cider House Rules?

GOD THE DEVIL AND BOB



How about the \$7,800,000 that Boys Don't Cry has taken in so far?

Surely we can find more productive ways to spend our leisure time — say, in Bible study, prayer, and helping to win Mississippi and the world to Jesus.

Of course that sounds old-fashioned. Of course those activities seem ancient when compared to modern movie special effects and pop music. Of course we will be mocked.

Considering what our Savior endured for us, however, don't you think that would be a small price to pay? Let's start living like we really believe that fact.

GUEST OPINION:

Time to review the calling process?

By Jerry Watts, pastor
Bay Vista Church, Biloxi



For years Southern Baptists have sought to call God's men as pastors and staff members. Collectively we pray and seek wise counsel as we attempt to be acutely sensitive to the Holy Spirit in these matters because, when we have run our race and finished our course, we desire to hear him say, "Well done."

Consider the discussion on the process for the calling of staff (Pastors, watch those ethics!, guest opinion by Archie Herrin, Feb. 3 issue). For me the real question is not, "Whatever happened to the old traditional way of having a friend recommend you to a church?" but rather, "Why is it done that way?"

Please understand — as a pastor who has served Southern Baptist churches in numerous ministerial positions over the past 25 years, and having this concept of a friend's recommendation so deeply ingrained in my psyche, truth is, I will never be able to personally offer my name to a

church. (This fact is seemingly more ingrained in me than some Scripture).

However, is it really bad ethics to think a minister can pray, sense God leading, and then offer his own name (not apply for a job) to a pastor search committee for prayerful consideration? Is this truly ethics or tradition?

In case you think this writer is saying we should toss aside our old way in lieu of some new way, let me say not so. Our present process has served us for many years. However, let us be careful to think we have arrived at or

discovered the one perfect method of calling staff. Today, we are daily evaluating every part of our work, so the calling process should not be or become a sacred cow which is never questioned.

From a pragmatic standpoint we have changed many other parts of this process. We have changed "pastor" to "senior pastor," "pulpit committee" to "pastor search committee," and "song leader" to "associate pastor for worship."

Let us consider which is more honest and ethical. Is it to have a minister prayerfully offer his name to a church or committee

for consideration, or is it to get a friend, director of missions, or the church-minister relations director, to make the submission to the committee?

Eph. 4 tells us to "live a life worthy of the calling you have received." This text tells us to have good moral values, judgments, and principles. As ministers who recognize that the calling to vocational ministry carries with it the responsibility to be above reproach, to act with integrity, and live like Jesus, let us live by good morals, values, and ethics. Let us always respect the call process and those churches that prefer to receive the recommendations from third parties — but maybe the time has come for us to examine our methods.

May whatever process or method we choose to use lead us closer to God's perfect will, for only in his will are we able to live a life that will receive his "well done."

After all, that is our ultimate desire.

Chicago Baptists reaching out to homeless

Editor's note: Scores of Southern Baptists — including many Mississippi Baptists — are making plans to travel to Chicago this summer to participate in Strategic Focus Cities, an evangelism campaign sponsored by the Southern Baptist North American Missions Board (NAMB). The need in Chicago is great, as evidenced by the following story. For more information on Strategic Focus Cities, contact NAMB at (770) 410-6000.

CHICAGO (BP) — Dirtman steps out of the shadows cast by the dingy streetlights and saunters toward the two cars parked on Lower Wacker Drive. He often walks without shoes, but this frosty February evening is too cold for even him. Alerted by one of the other homeless men gathered around the trunk of the first car, Linda Caston has a hot plate of spaghetti and chicken ready for him.

Dirtman quietly takes the plate from Linda, a member of Rose of Light Missionary Baptist Church, and walks away. He prefers to keep to himself, and the others respect his privacy. They greet him, but they aren't offended when he doesn't answer back. He fades into the darkness as he walks away, illuminated by the occasional patch of light before disappearing around one of the

concrete pillars in this section of downtown Chicago.

It's the side of Chicago that few tourists see while they're shopping at the glitzy stores on Michigan Avenue or checking out the attractions along Navy Pier. Even those who travel Lower Wacker Drive zip by too fast to notice the tattered blankets and frayed boxes carefully arranged into makeshift shelters.

On this Monday night, as Charlie Jones Sr., pastor of

Chicago's Rose of Light, pilots the two-vehicle caravan along Lower Wacker, he's looking for all the familiar hangouts of the people who live here. Spaghetti and meatballs, crispy fried chicken, and grilled garlic bread stay warm in the metal serving trays in his car trunk. Cookies and dozens of bottles of fruit drinks are also stashed in back. The second car's trunk has been loaded down with nearly 50 gray blankets.

Rose of Light, along with many other Baptist churches in Chicago, communicate the gospel of Jesus Christ to homeless and low-income people, who often don't know where their next meal is coming from, by offering them a plate of food.

Mount Carmel Ridge Church, for example, has been feeding between 50 to 100 people on Wednesday afternoons. Some are homeless; others are low-income residents in the neighborhood, said

Eddie Martin, the church's pastor. Each meal begins with a 15-minute Bible study. "It's about saving souls," Martin said. "It's very difficult to minister to somebody if they're hungry."

Evening Star Missionary Baptist prepares hot meals for 60 people on Monday nights. About 300 people receive food from the church's food pantry program on Thursdays, said Vesta Dixon, Evening Star's pastor. The church has held a Kids' Café every other Wednesday afternoon for six months, feeding and tutoring 20 children. Another 30 to 40 churches and ministries pick up food stored in Evening Star's warehouse.

Good Hope Church prepares hot meals for 25 to 60 homeless people on Lower Wacker Drive on Tuesday nights. Church members take food to shelters and to pantries almost every

day of the week. "We don't use this ministry just to feed people," said Edward Clark, the church's pastor. "It's good evangelism. We ask people to trust in God."

Rose of Light's members, meanwhile, hit the streets every Monday night of the year, offering the food along with a gospel tract. They pray with the men and ask them about other needs. For Jones, this passion to take care of the hungry has been part of his family for as long as he can remember.

His mother would often take people in or prepare a good meal for them. At times, Jones said, "it would make me mad as a boy because we didn't have much," but sharing with others was a core value in his family that has stayed with



SHARING FOOD — Linda Caston, a member of Rose of Light Missionary Baptist in Chicago, prepares a plate of food for a homeless man. (BP photo by Michael Leathers)

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Jones into his adult years. He has been involved with feeding the homeless for 27 years. He and others have fed as many as 285 on one night, and as few as 14 on another night.

"You have to do the ministries," Jones reflected, "and let Christ lead you."



HOT MEAL — Pastor Charlie Jones Sr., center, shares hot meals with two homeless men living on Chicago's Lower Wacker Drive. (BP photo by Michael Leathers)

Directory service touted

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — A new concept for collecting and giving access to Southern Baptist statistics and directory information was introduced to state convention statistical representatives in sessions at LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention March 3-4. Southern Baptist Directory Services (SBDS) will be built around a secured Internet site, with initial access given to states and associations, said Cliff Sharp, Annual Church Profile (ACP) and constituent information coordinator at LifeWay. Churches may be given access to the system at a later date. SBDS will be used for the first time in collecting 2000 ACP information. In addition to serving as a tool for collecting church statistics and names and addresses of leaders, Sharp said SBDS will meet the following needs:

- A real-time listing of all Southern Baptist congregations that is available to all appropriate users. The list can be updated as changes occur instead of once a year.
- A real-time listing of Southern Baptist leaders that is available to all appropriate users and can be updated as changes occur.
- Basic statistics at the national level, archived for 20 years that enable evaluation and reporting. Persons with access can then identify statistics they need and customize reports. For example, Sharp said a state or SBC church growth consultant could obtain a church's statistics for the past five years as part of preparing to assist with growth needs.

Sharp emphasized that most ACP information already is a matter of public record in association and state convention annuals. Association and state convention site managers for SBDS must sign data protection agreements. They will be responsible for identifying SBDS users within their entity. ACP information will continue to be restricted to the ministry and business purposes of the Southern Baptist network entities.

Looking back

10 years ago

The staff of the Interfaith Witness Department of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board names Mississippi pastor Cary F. Worthington as the 1990 Interfaith Associate of the year. Worthington is pastor of Pleasant Hill Church, Clarke County.

20 years ago

Winners of \$150 college scholarships at the state Baptist music festival are: Laura Coleman of Pearl and John Langworthy of Pascagoula, vocals; Kathrine Carlock of Jackson and Alicia Farnham of McComb, keyboards.

50 years ago

The 71st annual meeting of the Woman's Missionary Union of Mississippi, meeting at Calvary Church, Jackson, sets a record with registration of 1,954. Wilma Bobo Sledge is reelected to her fifth term as state president.

Prayer cited at WMU missions celebration

By Debbie Sills
Mississippi WMU writer

"Our first step was to pray," said Clarence Cooper, pastor of Emmanuel Church, Grenada, who neatly summed up the reason the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) Annual Missions Celebration was so powerful.

Months before the March 17-18 meeting, members of Emmanuel Church were on their knees in prayer every Wednesday. Two weeks before the meeting, the church had an altar call of prayer where 60 men knelt and prayed for God's spirit to be present.

All over Mississippi, people prayed for God to speak to the over 400 people present at the 121st annual meeting of Mississippi WMU.

The theme this year was "Whatever it Takes..." with sessions entitled, "...to be like you, Lord," "...to be strong in the

Lord," and "...to take the stand."

During the three sessions, Randy Sprinkle, director of the International Prayer Strategy Office for the International Mission Board (IMB), challenged each believer to emerge from their comfort zones and do whatever it takes to spread the Gospel.

He also asked each one present to search their heart to see if they were really willing to do whatever God asked them to do, instead of just being a person in the background. He talked of people in other parts of the world, who despite imprisonment, torture, and separation from family for over 20 years, continued to share the Gospel no matter the cost.

Other speakers included Mark and Sarah Groves, Jonesboro, Ark.; Jim Futral, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; Diane Pamela Smith, IMB missionary to Cote d'Ivoire, West Africa; and Shelia Dewese Mitchell, North American Mission Board missionary to Sand Springs, Okla., as director of DaySpring Villa Women's Shelter.

Throughout the weekend, participants celebrated works God has done and is doing in Mississippi and all over the world. On Friday afternoon, the Mississippi WMU staff shared what God had revealed to them during last September's staff prayer and planning retreat, and they presented the new mission statement and logo created by IMB missionary and artist Diane Pamela Smith.

On the evening of March 17, participants celebrated and honored missionary parents with a parade of country flags representing their children's

Miss. WMU Executive Board members elected

President, Rebecca Williams, Gautier
Vice President, Diane White
Secretary, Kay Hodge, Hernando

Area 1 Coordinator, Yvonne Taylor, Lamar
Area 1 Associate, Sarah Perkins, Hernando
Area 2 Coordinator, Fae Maroon, Belmont
Area 2 Associate, Judy Anderson, Saltillo
Area 3 Coordinator, Beverly Burch, Grenada
Area 3 Associate, Jane Blaire, Carrollton
Area 4 Coordinator, Inez Mathis, Starkville
Area 4 Associate, Etoile Herrod, Eupora
Area 5 Coordinator, Janet Green, Florence
Area 5 Associate, Minadene Waldrop, Terry
Area 6 Coordinator, Margaret Lay, Morton
Area 6 Associate, Marsha Howard, Philadelphia
Area 7 Coordinator, Liz McGraw, Woodville
Area 7 Associate, Betty Wilson, Magnolia
Area 8 Coordinator, Jane Allison, Hattiesburg
Area 8 Associate, Mary Jo Wedgeworth, Laurel
Area 9 Coordinator, Betty Jo Seals, Picayune
Area 9 Associate, Tiny Ferguson

AT LARGE:

Doris Knight, Como
Pam Smith, Philadelphia
Susie Rawls, Pinola
Robin Harrell, Pascagoula
Syble Myers, West Point
Delta Austin, Greenville
Judy Caples, Thaxton
Linda Donnell, Hattiesburg
Roberta Johnston, Brookhaven
Linda Smith, Brandon

ON PARADE — Over 50 Mission Friends, GAs, Acteens, and Women on Mission members and leaders participated in a missions parade for the WMU Annual Missions Celebration. (BR special photo)



Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union Mission Statement:

The role of the Mississippi WMU staff is to create dynamic missions awareness that leads to radical missions involvement and relevant missions support among Mississippi Baptists.

Staff Scripture:

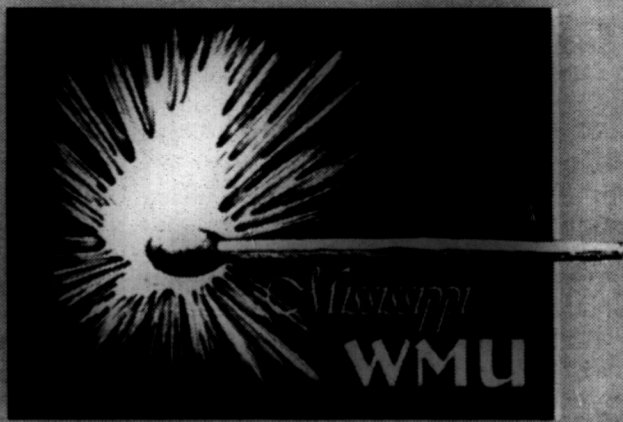
"Pray also for me that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel." Ephesians 6:29 NIV.

Logo description:

The darkness represents the world in which we live — no hope, no light, full of sin, eternal death, no knowledge of who Christ is. It is hard to see and focus in the dark. We begin to stumble and we lose our way. There are no plants, no flowers, no colors.

The match — a short, slender piece of wood that when ignited can start a fire. A match is not designed to be the fire or to sustain the fire, but rather to be the tool from which the fire begins. The match shares its flame with everything it touches. The match itself cannot burn down a forest, but it provides the beginning or motivation that does. The match represents us — you, me, Christians, Mississippi WMU. We are God's tools, but first we have to find the source for our heat. The match by itself can do nothing to dispell the darkness, but when touched by God's holy fire we carry the light of the world. We carry his light that gives hope, forgiveness, peace, love, and eternal life. The match can be used to ignite and rekindle a person's knowledge and passion for missions.

The flame — Matthew 5:16 says, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor does one light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in Heaven." One small light in the midst of darkness can make a difference. One small light can light a house. Many small lights can light a village. A flame can light the world.



areas of service, including six black flags representing Last Frontier areas.

On the morning of March 18, the session began by celebrating the different mission organizations with a parade of over 50 Mission Friends, Girls in Action (GAs), Acteens, and Women on Mission members and leaders.

Kay Cassibry, executive director of Mississippi WMU, called those in attendance during her director's report to celebrate what God has done through Mississippi WMU in the past year.

She said Camp Garaywa, the Mississippi Baptist GA campground in Clinton, has impacted many lives over the years — and still does according to a letter received recently in which a college-age male expressed his appreciation for the ministry of

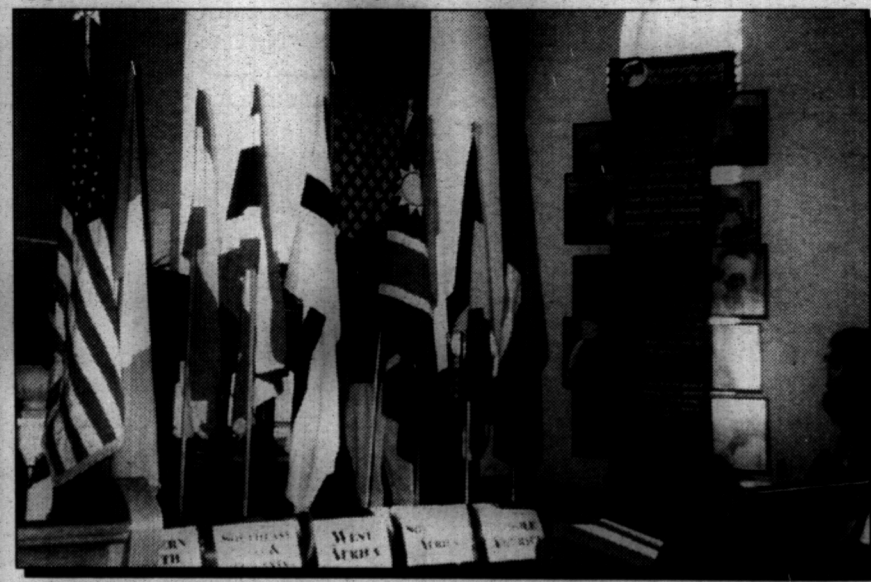
Camp Garaywa because he was called into the ministry during his four years of working as a part-time maintenance man.

Revival, renewal, and commitments were made at the altar where well over 100 people pledged to God to do whatever he asks and to do whatever it takes to share the Gospel.

After the meeting, Mississippi WMU staffers expressed their appreciation for all the people who prayed for the meeting.

They also thanked Emmanuel Church for their gracious hospitality; the members of the planning committee; and all those who worked behind the scenes in preparation for the meeting.

The 2001 Annual Mission Celebration will be held January 26-27 at Country Woods Church, Byram.



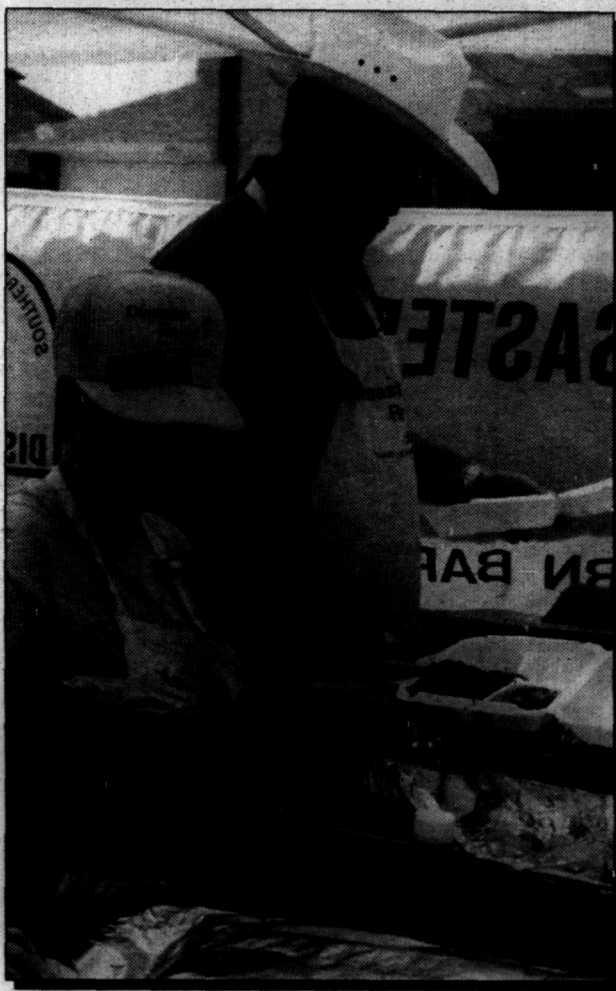
AROUND THE GLOBE — Missionary parents paraded in the auditorium carrying flags from their children's area of service during the Friday evening session of the WMU Annual Missions Celebration. Over 18 regions were represented including 6 regions that are considered Last Frontier regions. (BR special photo)

Fort Worth Baptists helping tornado victims |

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Tarrant County Baptists quickly responded with food and counseling to victims of rush-hour tornadoes which devastated parts of Fort Worth and Tarrant County, Texas, March 28.

The storm hit shortly after 6 p.m., doing the most damage to the downtown area. The same tornado, or another, more powerful twister, struck glancing blows at South Arlington and portions of Grand Prairie.

Five persons were killed, two in storm damage, one in a storm-related traffic accident, and two to drowning. More than 100 were injured, several seriously, and property damage was in the millions of dollars.



SERVING LUNCH — Jeanette Mathis(left) and Mark Leitch (right) of the Tarrant Baptist Association's Disaster Relief Team serve lunches to people within a tornado damaged Arlington, Texas neighborhood. (BP photo by Jim Morris)

Officials said the death toll would have been much higher had the tornado hit an hour earlier, before workers in the high-rise, glass-covered office buildings in the downtown area had left for home.

After dancing close to the ground in the near northwest side of downtown, the storm touched down at Seventh and University, an area which houses the Fort Worth Stock Show and the city's famous art museums. It wiped out businesses, warehouses, and a small low-income residential area near the Trinity River.

It hit several downtown buildings, including Calvary Cathedral — which formerly was First Church of Fort Worth, founded by J. Frank Norris.

More than 100 persons were in the church, at least two in the prayer tower, which was devastated by the winds. No one was injured at the church.

Officials have estimated financial loss just in the downtown area is more than \$175 million.

The storm then hit residential sections south of Interstate 20 in Arlington and Grand Prairie.

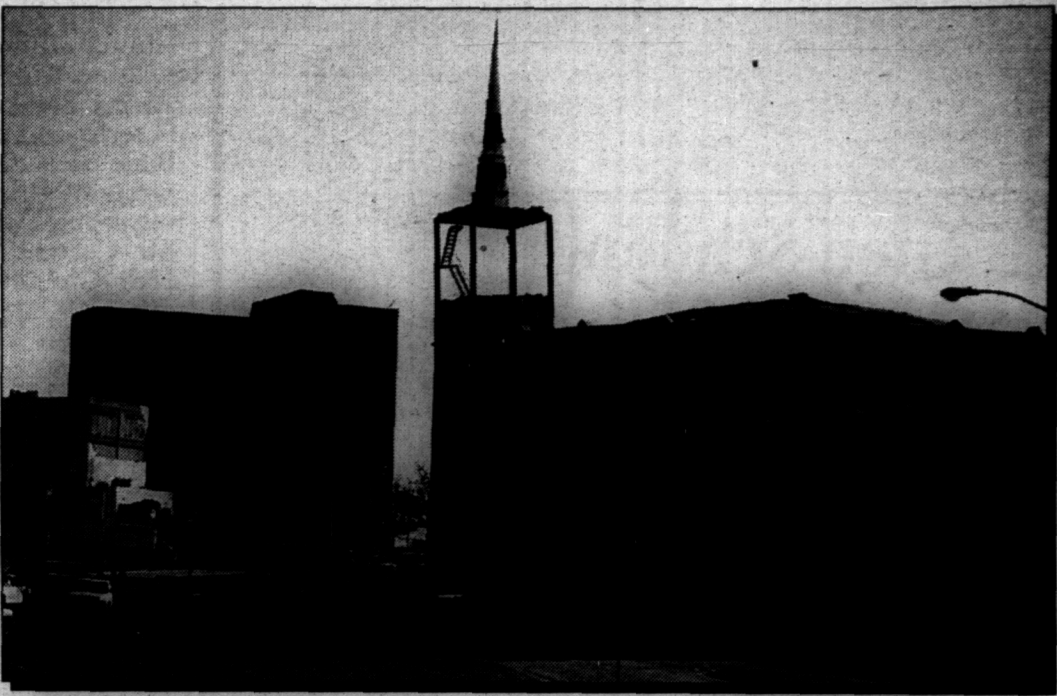
The Tarrant Baptist Association activated its disaster relief unit — a truck and 30-foot trailer — about midmorning March 29 at the request of the Arlington Police Department.

Staffed by 10 volunteers, and a like number of helpers from Mission Arlington, the unit was moved into a devastated upscale neighborhood near Matlock and Bardin. The volunteers served a hot meal of ground beef and mixed vegetables from dining flies set up on front lawns of homes in the neighborhood.

Many of the homes were nearly destroyed, with torn away roofs, broken windows, and other damage. Others had only minimal damage.

Bobby Cox, director of church and community ministries for the Tarrant Baptist Association, said the unit fixed and prepared more than 1,000 meals Wednesday. Supper consisted of chicken and dumplings and green beans.

Cox said the American Red Cross requested Baptists move the unit back to the campus of Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth for service later in the week. It was scheduled to prepare 3,000 meals



CALVARY CATHEDRAL — The prayer tower of Calvary Cathedral had the brick wall torn away by the F2 tornado Tuesday evening. There were over 100 people in the church when the tornado hit. Many cars were thrown against each other in the parking lot. (BP photo by Jim Morris)

Thursday and Friday, which were to be transported to relief workers and victims across the county in Emergency Relief Vehicles (ERVs).

"We are scheduled to prepare meals through Friday, and then we will see what is needed," Cox said.

He added volunteer counselors were dispatched to the Will Rogers Coliseum where about 175 victims were given emergency shelter. The counselors were on hand to help with the emotional trauma.

Tom Law, director of missions for the Tarrant Baptist Association(TBA), said early reports indicate no TBA-member church was damaged by the storm or the flooding which followed in some areas.

"We made a survey of all the churches — particularly those we could not reach by telephone — and all of them appear to be undamaged," Law said.

Also, neither of the Southern Baptist Convention agencies were damaged: Southwestern Seminary or the broadcast division of the North American Mission Board (formerly the Radio-Television Commission).

Efforts are under way to provide assistance to members of Baptist churches who need emergency help with food, clothing, lodging, and medication.

MC shortfall result of 'sloppy work'

An investigation into the nine percent shortfall in Mississippi College's (MC) current budget cited "sloppy budget work over the years" for the Baptist-affiliated school's fiscal woes, according to MC president Howell W. Todd.

"No money is missing. There is no evidence of wrongdoing or manipulation. Yes, we discovered a budget shortfall, but we've got it under control," he said.

"When you find something like this, you have to address it and go on," he stressed.

Todd said appropriate controls are now in place to prevent a recurrence, and the duties of the Clinton school's internal auditor have been expanded to increase budget scrutiny.

Todd said that in addition to those steps, the MC board of trustees has appointed an ad hoc committee to recommend improvements in the college's financial reports.

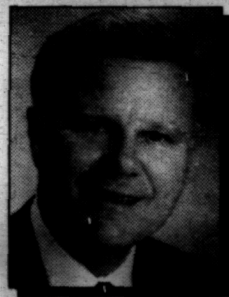
Todd, who said he takes responsibility as college president, pointed out that cutbacks already underway will limit the problem to a "one-year correction," and he said he expects to be back on track with next year's budget. The shortfall is estimated to be between two and three million dollars.

GOODBYE, DEAD LEAVES

Do you remember last fall, as the weather changed and the trees went dormant and leaves began to fall? Near my house there was a small oak tree that went through this seasonal change, except for the dead leaves — most of them just hung on.

While other trees were letting go of their foliage, this little tree kept its dead leaves. I wondered if it was the tree holding on to the leaves, or if it was the leaves that were holding on to the limbs! Either way, it didn't matter — the leaves stayed! They stayed on into the winter and they stayed through the winds, the rains, and what cold weather we had.

Spring is upon us now and all this dead foliage is about to be removed. Why? Not because of March winds, or even because they are decaying after being dead so long. No, the secret of the removal of the dead foliage is the arrival of new life!



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

What time or temperature could not do, a surge of new life can accomplish.

What a poignant parable God's renewing creation provides for all of us. Each of us carry around those dead dimensions of life, those deceased and unproductive leaves hanging on to our souls. Regardless of what's going on around us, it seems as though nothing will remove them. Dried up and unproductive, they seem to hang around on the fringes of our lives.

Some of the fruitless foliage we carry around with us might be the remains of broken relationships, a divorce, a friend

who betrayed, or a parent who disappointed. Others' leaves might be the shells of dreams that never came true — aspirations to achieve in sports or business, or desires that seemed to be so filled with possibilities and then were only fragile soap bubbles.

You wish they were gone, but they continue to hang on to your life like leftover leaves.

I've watched through the years as people tried to rid themselves of the hanging-on deadness. Often their efforts were rewarded by only adding frustration to their situation.

Like trees with dead leaves that just hold on, the only solu-

tion is "newness," — new life!

Our Lord Jesus announced to us and to the world, "I am the life." He said, "I am come to give life and to give it more abundantly."

Life in Christ brings new things and at the same time pushes away the old. Have you ever known someone who struggled with the old, dead, hanging-on carcasses in life, wishing that life was different and hoping that better things are ahead? Yet, nothing seemed to help, and nothing seemed to change. Then, by the grace of God and an encounter with his Son Jesus, everything about life turned around. Jesus, the life-giver, the bell-ringer, the joy-bringer, the leaf-remover, came to do his wonderful work in their heart.

What happened in the life of the Apostle Paul and what he saw happen to so many others through his ministry is clearly described by him in 2 Cor. 5:17, "Old things are passed away and behold all things become new."

H. Glen Schilling Memorial Crisis Center of Simpson County Baptist Association

Juanita Schilling

First Church, Lexington, hosts youth

Youth Student Conference will be held at First Church, Lexington, on April 28-30. Times of the services will be 11 a.m. on Sunday and 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Rob Turner, youth evangelist from Ohio, will be the speaker. Doug Applegate is pastor.

The Crisis Center of Simpson Baptist Association was dedicated to the memory of its former director of missions, the late H. Glen Schilling, on Jan. 9. Participants in the dedication service were Kermit McGregor, pastor, First Church, Mendenhall, and president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention; Foy Killingsworth, Weathersby Church; Earl Clark, Pleasant Valley Church; and Donna Swarts, Goodwater Church, who shared testimonies of Schilling's life and work. Among those attending the service were Juanita Schilling, wife of the late Schilling, their daughters, Connie Taylor and Bonnie Jackson, and members of their family. Schilling (pictured), along with Farris W. Smith, current director of missions, unveiled the plaque.

Youth and adults from First Church, Coldwater, went on a mission trip to Jamaica during spring break. They worked in Steertown, Jamaica, leading Bible clubs for children, ministering in girls homes, and leading several worship services for Mt. Carmel Church and Lime Hall Church. The team gave out 500 Bibles and over 600 tracts over the week and had the privilege to lead several Jamaicans to the Lord. Pictured (standing, from left) are Will Todd, Jessica Crenshaw, Bankston Johnson, Curt Taylor, Felix McElhaney, Ryan Crenshaw, Rod Irwin, Gloria Irwin, Shirley Ferguson; (kneeling) Scot Jones, Jerrelle Taylor, Melissa Hadskey, Dorothy Brown, Jessica Johnson, Martha Taylor, Serita Johnson, Linda Taylor, Brock Williams; and (front) Jenny Wilson.

Union County Association held an open house on Jan. 16 to honor Marvin Cox and his wife Glenda, on his 20th anniversary as director of missions. Pictured, Robert Daniel, moderator, presenting a plaque to Cox.

A county-wide youth choir of Leake County recently performed in Forest; Petal; Mobile, Ala.; and Port St. Joe, Fla.; before singing at First Church, Carthage. The choir was made up of members from Corinth Church; Carthage United Methodist Church; First Church, Carthage; Freeny Church; Madden Church; Sunrise Church; Trinity Church; and West Carthage Church.

Silver Creek, McComb, will dedicate its new building on Sunday, April 9 at 2 p.m. Patrick G. Bourg is pastor.

New Salem Church, Columbus, will celebrate the completion of its sanctuary at 2 p.m. on April 9. John Sharp is the new pastor of New Salem Church.



Daniel, and The Coxes

The adult choirs of Woolmarket Church, Biloxi, and Big Ridge Church, D'Iberville, are combining to sing "God For Us." The choirs will present the musical at

Woolmarket Church at 7 p.m. on April 9 and at Big Ridge Church at 6 p.m. on April 16.

When I'm On My Knees women's weekend will be held April 14-15 at Crowder Church, Crowder. Registration begins Friday at 6:30 p.m. and sessions will conclude at 9 p.m. Saturday's session begins with breakfast at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 2 p.m. Featured speaker will be Anita Corrine Donihue, author from Auburn, Wash., and music will be led by Mona Lisa Blount of New Spirit. Registration fee of \$15 should be mailed to Crowder Baptist Church, P. O. Box 128, Crowder, MS 39622. For more information, call the church at (662) 326-8339 or Susan Southerland at (662) 578-3969 (evenings).



Daniel, and The Coxes



Youth ministry team from East End Church, Columbus, went on spring break mission retreat 2000 from March 5-8. David England, minister to students, and Gary Walker, minister of music, along with 14 youth and four sponsors made up the team. The youth ministered at Macadonia Church, Maplesville, Ala.; First Church, Demopolis, Ala.; and Gulf Shore state campground. The youth ministered through puppets, drama, and music.

677 Mississippi Churches Can't Be Wrong.

More than 600 churches throughout Mississippi put their faith in Wellington Associates for comprehensive insurance services including property, general, and specific liability, vehicle, workers compensation, and other coverages. Wellington guarantees a quality program, customized for your ministry, at the most competitive premium rates.

For references and more information, call Mike Brooks at 601-353-2400 or 1-800-442-0290.

Wellington Associates, Inc.



Temple Church, Myrtle, held note burning for parsonage on March 5. Pictured (from left) are Wes Creighton, chairman of deacons, and Tracy Putnam, pastor.



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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

April 6, 2000

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Office of Communication.

Church Facilities Workshop

April 13, 2000, 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Country Woods Baptist Church
6737 Siwell Road, Jackson, Mississippi
371-7955

The conference is for pastors, staff members, building committees, long-range planning committees, business administrators and maintenance/property personnel.

Please complete the registration form below and mail,

E-mail or fax to:

Keith Gordon, Church Building Services

P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

Fax number: 601-714-7426, E-mail: kgordon@mbcb.org

Church Facilities Workshop

April 13, 2000

Registration Form

Cost: \$10 per person (includes lunch)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Church/Vendor: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

New Choices In

2000
Fall
Sunday School

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR A NEW CENTURY CURRICULUM WORKSHOPS

Sunday School for a New Century will involve releasing new Bible study curriculum choices (available from the Fall 2000 Quarter) designed to assist churches as they seek to see more lives transformed through the gospel. Through these series of workshops we will interpret and help prepare your church for these exciting changes. This conference is for pastors, staff, Sunday School directors, and key age group leadership.

Sponsoring

Dates	Association/s	Location	Time
4/14-15	State S S Dept.	Park Place BC Brandon	6:30 p.m. - 14th thru noon - 15th
5/02	Jackson	FBC, Gautier	6:30-8:30 p.m.

For more information, call the State Sunday School Department.
1-800-748-1651 or (601)968-3800



Sunday School Teachers Convention

April 14-15, 2000

Schedule:

Friday:

6:30-7:00 p.m.

7:00-8:30 p.m.

General Session

Age group, SS Directors and pastor/staff sessions. Age group sessions include preschool, children, youth, young adult (18-24), Middle Adult (25-54) and Senior Adult (55 and up)

Saturday:

9:00-10:15 a.m.

10:15-10:45 a.m.

10:45-noon

Age group, SS Directors and pastor/staff sessions

Break

Age group, SS Directors and pastor/staff sessions

For more information, call the State Sunday School Department.
1-800-748-1651 or (601) 968-3800



Singles Fellowship

Thursday, April 27

First Baptist Church, Greenwood

(Call 1-662-453-3075 for directions)

No admission fee

7:00 p.m.

7:30

Finger foods and drinks

Music and Gwen Williams, New Orleans humor, motivation and inspiration

Sponsored by

Leflore Baptist Association, First Baptist Church, Greenwood
and MBCB Discipleship and Family Ministry Department

Sunday School for a New Century

It's all about change

"Teaching for Spiritual Transformation"

Park Place Baptist Church
Pearl, Mississippi, April 14-15, 2000

Friday Night

6:30 General Session Worship Center
7:00 Age Group Curriculum Overview

Preschool	Room 100	Melba Carmona
Children	Room 225	Curtis Honts
Youth	Choir Room	Richard Barnes
Adults	Gym	Alan Raughton
General Officer	Activities Room	David Apple

Saturday Morning

9:00 - 12:00 Teaching for Spiritual Transformation

Preschool	Room 100	Melba Carmona
Children	Room 225	Curtis Honts
Youth	Choir Room	Richard Barnes
Young Adult	Room 120	Ronnie Falvey
Median Adult	Gym	Alan Raughton

Senior Adult	Room 129	Wayne Edwards
General Officers	Activities Room	David Apple
Pastors/Staff	Room 123	Larry Garner

There is no cost and no registration is necessary. Childcare will not be provided. Any questions please call the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board 1-800-748-1651 or 968-3800 locally.

Preaching and Worship Conference

May 8-9, 2000
Emmanuel Baptist Church, Grenada

Plenary Session Topics

- Preaching and Worship that Promotes Evangelism
- Preaching and Worship that Promotes Discipleship
- Preaching and Worship that Promotes Ministry
- Preaching and Worship that Promotes Fellowship
- Preaching and Worship that Promotes Worship

SCHEDULE

Monday, May 8

1:00 Registration
1:30 Welcome, Prayer and Housekeeping
1:40 Music
1:45 Session One
2:20 Music
2:30 Session Two
3:00 Break and Fellowship
3:30 Session Three
4:00 Transition to groups
4:05 Break-Out Groups I
5:00 Dinner on your own
6:30 Break-Out Groups II
7:30 Music
7:45 Session Four
8:15 Music
8:20 Session Five
9:00 Adjourn

Tuesday, May 9

8:30 Worship Experience
9:15 Session Six
10:00 Break
10:30 Breakout Groups III
11:35 Lunch at the Church (compliments CAPM)
Dialogue with Conference Leaders
1:05 Break-Out Groups IV
2:10 Transition
2:15 Music
2:25 Session Seven
3:00 Music
3:05 Session Eight
3:35 Adjourn... have a safe trip home!

Registration Form
Preaching and Worship Conference
May 8-9, 2000 • Emmanuel Baptist Church, Grenada

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Church _____ Association _____
Phone _____ E-mail Address _____

Mail to: Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.
Fax to: 601-714-7426 E-mail to: kgordon@mbcb.org

Please pre-register by May 1, 2000, so that adequate materials can be provided.

For additional information, contact Keith Gordon at 601-292-3307.

Orlando Bound!

National WMU Annual Meeting and Missions Conference

Orlando, Fla.
June 9-13, 2000

Lodging will be at the Wyndham Orlando Resort. Saturday, June 10, you will be free to enjoy local Orlando attractions ON YOUR OWN. The WMU Annual Meeting begins on Sunday, June 11.

Training will be offered at an **ADDITIONAL COST OF \$35** per person. Participants **MUST** register for training to get the \$35 cost. Those registering at the door will pay \$55.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS MAY 16, 2000.

The cost per person includes transportation and lodging.

Contact the WMU for more information: 1-601-968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651.

LAD CRUSADE DAY

Central Hills Baptist Retreat
Kosciusko

April 15, 2000
9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Cost: \$4

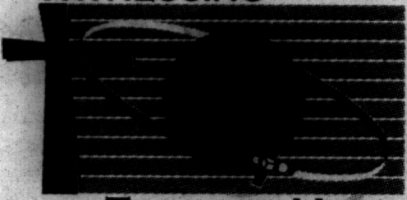
Bring a sack lunch.

(No meal will be provided.)

Register Early! DEADLINE: APRIL 8
MAXIMUM ATTENDANCE: 500
Come and meet our missionaries

Call the Men's Ministry Department for more information at
1-601-968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651

WITNESSING



THROUGH MEDIA

WORKSHOPS

- **Creative Production - Led by Don Moore and Don Warren**
Creating spots, outreach videos, devotional thoughts, VBS promotion, budget presentations and others for the local church.
- **Getting Started in Media - Led by Chip Turner**
Using media to meet the needs of today's church through audio tapes and video for training, witnessing and evangelism.
- **How Did They Do That? - Led by Don Moore and Don Warren** (one hour session for everyone)
Examples will be shown. Share your samples... bring on VHS format.
- **How Shall They Hear - Led by Stan Grubb**
Participants will explore illustrations on how local SBC churches can use various forms of media to reach their communities for Christ as well as equip and edify believers.
- **Internet: "Spinning a Spiritual Web" - Led by Wes Pegues**
Come learn what you need to know about getting on line, surfing the Web and publishing a home page.
- **"Nuts and Bolts" of Camera Operation - Led by Don Moore**
Participants will walk through the basic camera operations such as framing, functions and camera directions.
- **Sound Advice- Led by Tony Brooks**
Participants will receive audio tips and production techniques for the sound operator. Question and answer format for those involved in working with sound in a local church television ministry.

MAY 5-6, 2000
RIDGECREST BC, MADISON

Friday 6-7 p.m.	Registration and Browse Display Area			
7-9 p.m.	Banquet Speaker: J.J. Jasper and Awards Presentation			
Saturday 8-9 a.m.	Continental Breakfast, Registration and Browse Display Area			
9-9:30 a.m.	General Assembly			
9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Workshops	"Nuts and Bolts" of Camera Operation Don Moore	How Shall They Hear? Stan Grubb	Getting Started in Media Chip Turner	Internet: Spinning a Spiritual Web Wes Pegues
11:30 a.m.	Lunch and Browse Display Area			
1-2 p.m.	How Did They Do That? Don Moore and Don Warren (for everyone)			
2-3:30 p.m. Workshops	Creative Production Don Moore and Don Warren	Sound Advice Tony Brooks		Internet: Spinning a Spiritual Web (repeated) Wes Pegues

Friday and Saturday cost is \$25 per person and does include all meals and conference materials. For churches bringing four or more persons for Friday and Saturday, the cost is \$20 per person.
Registration Deadline is April 25.

Contact MBCB Broadcast Service for more info: 1-601-968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651

Chaplains Spring Retreat

April 28-29

**Gulfshore
Baptist
Assembly
Pass Christian**

The Mississippi Baptist Chaplain's Association will hold its annual Spring Retreat at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly. It will begin at 5 p.m. on Friday, April 28 and continue through lunch on Saturday, April 29, 2000.

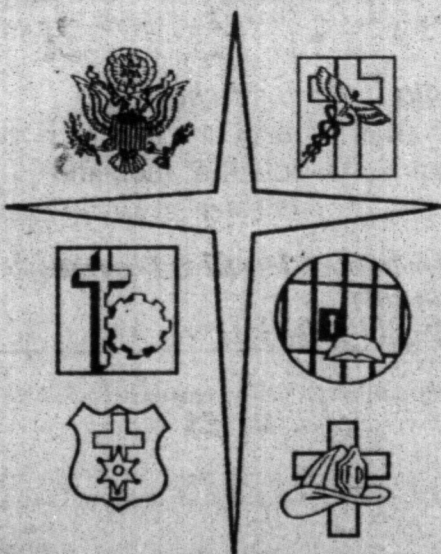
Jack Follis will be our workshop leader. He is currently the CPE Supervisor for Mississippi Baptist Health Systems, having served previously with Pastoral Care Services, East Mississippi State Hospital, Meridian. Follis comes to us with thirty years experience in pastoral care and counseling.

Our Theme for this year:

**"Ministry Stories:
Remembering...Reflecting...Renewing..."**

Come join us as we meet old friends, make new ones, and share, learn, and grow together.

For additional information, call Don Wilson, Strategic Initiatives Department, MBCB, 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3361.



Central Hills Summer Camp Schedule

**2000
Summer Missions
Resident Camp for
ROYAL AMBASSADORS
AND
CHALLENGERS**

June 12-16
June 19-23
June 26-30
July 10-14
July 17-21
July 24-28

**Lad & Dad
WEEKEND CAMP**

June 23-24
July 21-22

Please choose a week which is free of schedule conflicts. Each camper is expected to remain at CHBR for the whole camp session.

For more information contact Central Hills
601-289-9730

Pray this day for...

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY

What If...?

God answered our prayers the way we answer His call to service. . . God met our needs the way we give Him our lives. . .

Anonymous

Tommy Goode is a church planter strategist working with Appalachian Regional Ministries in Scott Depot, W. Va. Pray for the salvation of the 8 to 10 million lost and unreached people in Appalachia and the people of the area who need jobs, healthcare, better housing and hope.

Cooperative Program Day (Stewardship Emphasis). Pray that each church member will understand the blessings of cooperating with others in witnessing to the lost and in giving through the cooperative program to support Baptist work throughout the U.S. and around the world.

For (1) State Bible Drills, Poplar Springs Drive BC, Meridian/Petal BC, Petal (Discipleship & Family Ministry); (2) State Secretaries Conference, Camp Garaywa (Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries).

For (1) Associational Vacation Bible School Clinic, North Oxford BC (Sunday School); (2) Legal Issues Area meeting, Calvary BC, Batesville (Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries).

For (1) State Bible Drills, FBC, Laurel (Discipleship & Family Ministry); (2) Many parts of Mongolia have been hit by terrible blizzards, and many families have lost all of their livestock, which represents their income. Pray that aid will get to them, as well as the gospel of Christ.

For (1) Legal Issues Area Meeting, Calvary BC, Meridian (Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries); (2) Associational Vacation Bible School Clinic, FBC, Wiggins (Sunday School); (3) Area Senior Adult Choir Festival, FBC, Laurel (Church Music).

Sam Drummond and David Dixon of the Leadership Development team in Spain will be visiting theological education extension centers in Galicia and Denia. Pray for the students who spend one weekend a month in intensive training and that they can have effective ministries.

It is difficult for workers to reach people who live in remote settings in Ethiopia, but radio waves can and do. Please pray for the initial planning that is in process to broadcast throughout the region. Pray for local believers who are willing to let their voices be heard.

For (1) Church Facilities Workshop, Country Woods BC, Jackson (CAPM); (2) John Mark Hansen is associational missionary in the NE Baptist Association. Pray for the 18 counties with eight churches and 13 million points. There are whole counties without an evangelical witness.

A Malinke man of Mali dreamed that Jesus came to him in a dream and told him to find Christian missionaries to tell him about Jesus. He did so and received Christ. He and his wife moved to a neighboring village to share the gospel. Pray for their ministry.

For (1) State Bible Drills, FBC, Starkville/Calvary BC, Starkville (Discipleship & Family Ministry); (2) State Young Musicians Choral Evaluation, FBC, Clinton (Church Music); (3) Father/Daughter Overnight, Camp Garaywa (WMU); (4) Leadership Training Conference, Gulfshore Assembly (CLGM).

For (1) Sunday School Convention & Associational VBS Training, Park Place BC, Brandon (Sunday School); (2) State Handbell Festival, Vicksburg Convention Center, Vicksburg (Church Music).

For (1) State Young Musicians Choral Festival, Mississippi College (Church Music); (2) State Bible Drills, FBC, Clinton/FBC, Brandon (Discipleship & Family Ministry).

For (1) State Speakers Tournament and Selection Tournaments, Alta Woods BC, Jackson (Discipleship & Family Ministry); (2) Lad/Crusader Day, Central Hills Retreat (Men's Ministry).

We can help you raise money for your building program!

Challenge to Build has a 30-year history of assisting Mississippi Baptist churches reach a new level of giving, and has raised \$32,308,346 from 1990-2000.

Your church CAN reach its goal:

- Debt Retirement
- New Worship Center
- Family Life Center
- Educational Buildings
- Other Projects

A cost shared program offered by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Stewardship Department
Contact Jerry Mixon, Stewardship Director, 601-292-3347 or 1-800-748-1651 ext. 347

Challenge to Build

2000 LEGAL ISSUES AREA MEETINGS

⚖️ ⚖️ ⚖️ ⚖️ ⚖️ ⚖️ ⚖️ ⚖️ ⚖️ ⚖️ ⚖️ ⚖️ ⚖️ ⚖️ ⚖️

SITES

APRIL 17, 2000

Calvary Baptist Church, Batesville
116 Vick Street

APRIL 18, 2000

Calvary Baptist Church, Meridian
3905 8th Street



“keeping your **church**
OUT of court”

PURPOSE: To provide information on how churches can carefully conduct their affairs under county, state and national laws and do so in a manner that provides some legal insulation from lawsuits.

TARGET AUDIENCE: church business administrators, church staff, personnel committee members, finance committee members, church trustees, legal professionals dealing with issues concerning liabilities of churches and non-profit organizations.

REGISTRATION FEE: \$10 per conferee (includes lunch). The 154-page notebook “Keeping Your Church Out of Court” will be available for \$25. You may e-mail your registration and pay at the door.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS: William R. Korb, Jr., Sheila L. Korb, Michael V. Bourland, all attorneys with Bourland, Smith, Wall & Wenzel law firm in Fort Worth, Texas, and general counsel to Tarrant Baptist Association, Inc., and trust and estate counsel to Baylor University.

For more information contact the Church Administration/Pastoral Ministries Department:
601-968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651

HOUSE TOPS

REVIVAL DATES

Trinity, Pearl: April 9-12; Rick Kennedy, McComb, evangelist; Joe Wood, Terry, music.

Friendship (Lincoln): April 9-12; Sunday, Sunday School at 10 a.m., worship at 11 a.m., dinner on the grounds, and 1:30 p.m. service; Mon.-Wed., 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Wiley Reid, evangelist; Jamall Badry, music.

Mt. Zion (Lincoln): April 9-12; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Gene Douglas, evangelist; Tim Moak, music; Tim McCaffrey, pastor.

New Elbethel (Lafayette): April 9-12; Sunday, 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m. with a potluck lunch; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Larry Wicker, evangelist; Ron Jenkins, pastor.

First, Magee: April 16-19; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Bill Causey, Clinton, evangelist; Hosanna, gospel quartet, music; Jerry Sullivan, pastor.

Southway, Brookhaven: April 9-12; Sunday, 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Wayne Moak, pastor, Clear Branch Church, evangelist; Charles Rushing, music; Leon Wallace, pastor.

State Boulevard, Meridian: April 30-May 3; Sunday, 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon and lunch at 12:30 p.m., and 7 p.m.; Billy Smith, Madison, evangelist; Graham Smith, Jackson, music; Kevin L. Jones, pastor.

Lena, Lena: April 9-12; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; John Burkett, evangelist/musician; Tom Stevens, pastor.

Antioch, Columbus: April 9-14; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; C. C. Burns, Enterprise, evangelist; Monty Bounds, music.

Heucks Retreat, Brookhaven: April 9-12; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. nightly; Jim Everett, pastor, Wellman Church, evangelist.

Crooked Creek, Silver Creek: April 9-14; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m., covered dish meal, and service at 7 p.m.; Paul Wilbourn,

evangelist; Robert Dunn, interim pastor; Larry Davis, music.

Enon (North Central): April 16-19; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Grover Glenn, evangelist.

Carey Chapel, Red Banks: April 16-19; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. nightly; Randy Atkinson, Birmingham, Ala., evangelist.

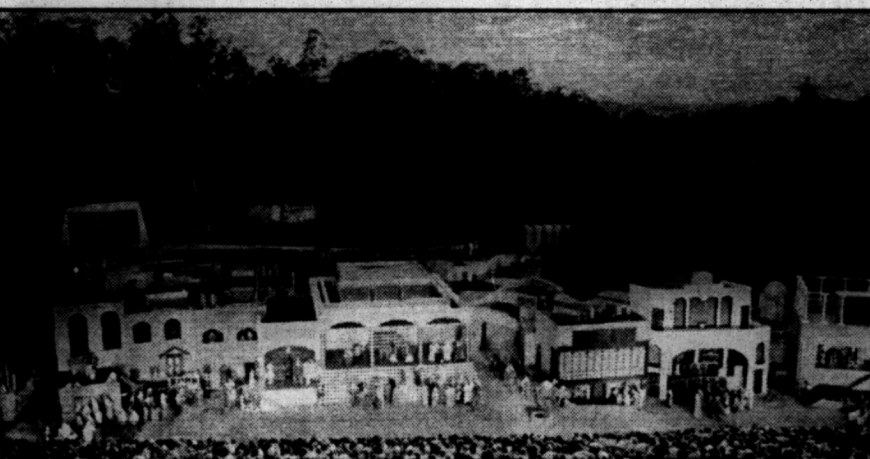
Tinsley, Tinsley: June 8-11; Thurs.-Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.; John McCall, evangelist; Robert Biggs, pastor.

Liberty, Newton: April 17-19; 7 p.m. nightly; Randall Creel, evangelist; J. B. Costilow, pastor.

NAMES IN THE NEWS



Big Level Church, Wiggins, recently ordained Dale Bond and Todd Hatten as deacons. Pictured with their wives (from left) are Dale and Candy Bond and Mim and Todd Hatten. David Perry is pastor.



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and state-of-the-art sound for an
awe-inspiring experience you'll never forget.

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April 28 - October 28
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www.greatpassionplay.com

The
Great
Passion
Play



Moak and McCullough

Clear Branch Church, Wesson, licensed David McCullough to the ministry on March 5. McCullough is available to supply preach and can be contacted at (601) 835-0438. Pictured (from left) are Wayne Moak, pastor, and McCullough.

James Burrell, a deacon of Sallis



Burrell and Wicker

Church, Attala Association, brought the evening message and was licensed to the ministry on Feb. 6. Burrell is available for supply and pastorate. He can be contacted at Rt. 1, Box 269, Sallis, MS 39160; phone (662) 289-3845; or e-mail jbburrell@kopower.com. Pictured, from left, are Burrell and Thomas Wicker, pastor.

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First Church, Jackson, offers seminar

A Human Relations-Communication Seminar covering 25 topics to vastly increase business and personal success will be offered by First Church, Jackson. Conducted by Bob Caskey, former award-winning international corporation public relations director, the seminar will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 18 in the Family Life Center.

The cost of the seminar is \$15 and advance registration is required. Checks may be mailed to First Baptist Family Life Center, Box 250, Jackson, MS 39205-0250. Additional information is available by calling (601) 949-1945.

Homecomings

Crowder, Crowder: April 23; 11 a.m.; lunch served in Family Life Center; Truman Scarborough, speaker; Lance Respass, music; Ben James, pastor.

Macedonia, Brookhaven: April 30; 10:30 a.m.; covered dish at noon in fellowship hall; Calvin Phelps, Winnsboro, La., guest speaker; Karen Hardy, Collins, music; Bob Wilson, pastor.

Alpha, Omega endowment fund established

MAGEE, Miss. (Special) — Willie Ainsworth (photo below, left), a lifetime resident of Magee, Miss., talks with Jerry Mixon, stewardship director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, during a historical moment in her home.



Ainsworth and Mixon

Standing under a picture of her mother, she becomes the first contributor to the Alpha and Omega Mission Endowment through the Mississippi Baptist Foundation (MBF).

The endowment was created to fund five areas of missions: partnership missions, evangelism, new church starts, cooperative program, and ethnic language groups.

"Miss Willie," as she is known by friends and family, owned and operated the skating rink in Magee for 41 years. Almost all of the children and youth in Magee and the surrounding area grew up skating in her rink and under her watchful eye. She had to learn to walk three times — first as a baby; secondly after she was stricken with polio; and the third time after a car accident. "If it wasn't for my daddy, who refused to treat me like a cripple," she declares, "y'all would be paying me disability."

Ainsworth had a dream. She wanted to support herself, be independent, and own a skating rink. At the age of 38 she built the rink that continues to operate in Magee. She has spent a lifetime spreading her good influence on the children and youth of the area. She has been a life long member of Goodwater Baptist Church and started a scholarship fund for Simpson County students in 1976 through MBF.

"Mississippi Baptists are grateful to Miss Willie for her generous gift. Only the interest from this endowment will ever be used for missions. The funds will be under the management of the foundation. An endowment such as this should assure everyone their gift can work for them long after they have gone to be with the Lord. Miss Willie has been faithful to the Lord and God has blessed that faithfulness. Now she will touch many other lives through her gift. She is our first charter member," Mixon said.

The first 50 people who contribute to the Alpha and Omega Mission Endowment will be charter members. Each will receive a beautifully framed certificate and be assured they have become a part of funding missions until Jesus comes. Any size gift of any kind including land, stocks, cash, and other appreciated gifts are appropriate. Interested persons should contact the stewardship department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board to receive a free consultation.

For more information, contact Mixon at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3347 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651. E-mail: jmixon@mbcb.org.

First Church, Philadelphia, holds 150th anniversary

First Church, Philadelphia, will celebrate its 150th anniversary on Saturday, May 6, and Sunday, May 7. Activities on Saturday include a reception from 2-4 p.m. in the fellowship hall and a musical presentation of "God for Us" in the sanctuary at 7 p.m. The celebration on Sunday will begin with a service in the sanctuary at 10:30 a.m. Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board will preach during the morning service. A music service will be held following a noon luncheon. Dan Howard is pastor of First Church.

Blue Mountain College (BMC) is accepting applications for May Intercession courses, May 8-19. The first session of summer school will start May 31 with exams on June 29 and 30. The second session begins July 5 and ends with exams on Aug. 3 and 4. A computer course will be offered June 5-16. For more information, contact the office of admissions at (601) 685-4161 or toll free (800) 235-0136.

Coach Jack Moser will direct the annual basketball clinic for junior and senior high girls. The junior high clinic is scheduled for June 4-9 and the senior high clinic for June 25-30. Further information about the camp may be obtained by calling (601) 685-4771 ext. 146.

BMC invites high school senior, junior, and sophomore girls to the annual Spring Fling on April 13. Spring Fling gives prospective students an opportunity to attend class and meet faculty, staff, and students. Reservations can be made by calling (800) 235-0136 by April 10.

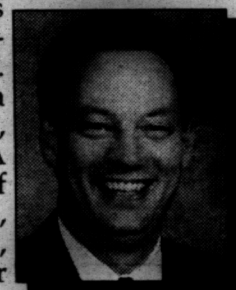
Mississippi College (MC) Concert Band will be in concert on April 9 at 3 p.m. in Swor Auditorium. Craig Young, conductor of the band, will be conducting the recital. A special feature will be MC's own James

Sclater's work, "Symphony No. 2 for Band." For more information, call the office of public relations at (601) 925-3239.

The fifth annual William Carey College Minister's

STAFF CHANGES

First Church, Morton, has called Joseph (Joe) R. Turner as pastor effective March 15. His previous place of service was Mt. Manna Church, Coldwater. A native of Memphis, Tenn., Turner received his D. Min. at the Southern Baptist School in Jacksonville, Fla.



Turner

Lanny Haley has been serving as bivocational pastor of Christ Church, Greenwood,

since November 1998. On March 12, the membership voted to call him as full-time pastor.

Mt. Vernon Church, Eupora, has called Dale Strickland of Kilmichael as pastor effective April 2. A native of Webster County, Strickland has been serving as interim pastor at Mt. Vernon since Feb. 13.

Golf Tournament is scheduled for May 22-23 at the Canebrake Golf Course in Hattiesburg. The tournament will begin at noon on Monday and 8 a.m. on Tuesday. The cost is \$90 with a deposit of \$50 due by April 28. For more information, call Larry Kennedy at (601) 582-6115.

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Single women receive encouragement, tips

FRANKLIN, Tenn. (BP) — Affirmation, hope, encouragement, practical living, and enjoying life in the moment — these are the lessons of VocE, a five-city, two-day conference for young, single women.

Italian for "the voice of a woman," VocE is sponsored by the single adult discipleship area of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

VocE features three program personalities: Margaret Becker, an entertainer; RoseAnne Coleman, a teacher; and Cindy Sneed, a counselor. The women use music, Bible teaching, humor, and group interaction in an intimate setting to speak to single women.

During the event's kickoff conference in Franklin, Tenn., March 17-18, 120 single women from various professional, denominational, and ethnic backgrounds listened to the trio comment honestly and vulnerably about their own lives, fears, dreams, and hopes.

"The future is God's, not ours. Be open to his direction; then you will find your purpose," Sneed said.

"It takes courage to live in the moment, no matter what comes," Sneed added. "Stand tall, learn to savor it. Savor what God has already put you through. If nothing else changed, would Jesus be enough for you?"

Sneed told of an incident that happened to her in the



BECKER PERFORMS — Margaret Becker, a contemporary Christian entertainer, led in worship during the premiere VocE event in Franklin, Tenn., March 17-18. Italian for "the voice of a woman," VocE is sponsored by the single adult discipleship area of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. VocE will be held in five cities across the U.S. (BP photo by Sharon Harper)

eighth grade, which she said shamed her and caused depression and anger. The resolution came through accepting forgiveness and grace.

"Jesus didn't come to take our

burdens away, but to empower us, and to live in us to look at life from God's perspective. You don't have to see your shame and guilt when you look in the mirror. You see how incredible

you are. Our value comes from Jesus Christ, nothing else. You have nothing to fear from your accusers. The burden is there, but we deal with them in a totally different way."

Coleman, author of the devotional, "Moment by Moment," was humorous and poignant as she shared the spiritual journey that led her to quit a teaching job in Birmingham, Ala., and to begin teaching Bible studies without a salary in Nashville.

Using Scripture to illustrate her point, Coleman told listeners, "God will humble you and test your heart. He may let you go hungry so you might know man does not live by bread alone, but by the hand of God. Your self-discipline, your perfectionism will break down. I've been too arrogant to admit I need him for every breath I take. We're not to live by self, but by God."

The remaining four VocE events will be in Charlotte, N.C., March 31-April 1; Overland Park, Kan., April 7-8; Austin, Texas, May 19-20; and Corona, Calif., June 23-24. For information on upcoming VocE events, visit the website at www.vocetour.com or call (800) 254-2022.

Garland Eaves Sr., Miss. minister, dies

Garland C. Eaves Sr., 64, died at the Beverly Health Care Facility in Eupora on March 25. Funeral services were held on March 28 in Moselle with burial

in Moselle Memorial Garden. A native of Winston County, Eaves received his education at Clarke College and Luther Rice Seminary. He was licensed to preach on June 30, 1957 by Bethel Church, Louisville.

Churches he served were Oak Grove, Gum Branch, and Good Hope, Winston County; Self Creek, Oktibbeha County; Interstate and Gunnison, Bolivar County; Central, Tishomingo County; Wheeler Grove, Alcorn County; Moselle Memorial, Jones County; Pleasant Grove, Wayne County; and Fellowship,

Choctaw County. He also served as a chaplain in the Laurel Police Department.

Survivors include his wife Rilda Nan (Lucius) Eaves of Eupora; sons, Garland Clinton Eaves Jr. of Meridian, and Hiram Glen Eaves of Ellisville; daughter, Melba Nan Eaves of Ellisville; mother, Autence (Reed) Eaves of Louisville; sisters, Dorothy Nance of Louisville, Glynda Woodruff of Louisville, and Betty Hatcher of Louisville; brothers, Garvis Eaves of Maryville, Tenn., and Jimmy Eaves of Rose Hill; and three grandchildren.



Eaves

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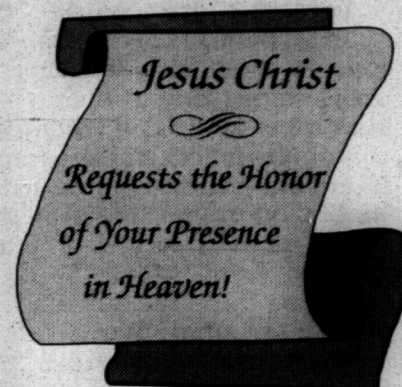
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3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. *(I believe in Jesus.)*
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him. *(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)*

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Remembering the Lord's faithfulness

Joshua 23:1-6, 8-11, 14

By Keith Smyser

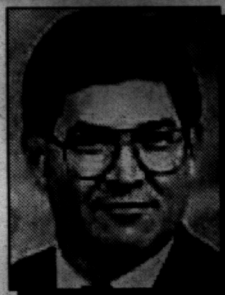
Someone has said, "the shortest pencil is better than the longest memory." It helps to write things down in order to remember and recall what took place. The practice of keeping a journal to write down the activity of God in your life provides you a written record of what God has done.

Joshua gathered his leaders and gave what many call a farewell address. Pointing the leaders to God, Joshua gave credit and glory for all accomplishments to God. During his address, Joshua asked them to remember how faithful God had been to them.

Remember to finish what God has started (vv. 1-5). We are blessed to have many ways to recall events.

Ways to remember the past might include: writing it down, entering information into a computer, taking pictures, making memory or keepsake albums, videotaping events or activities and maintaining a video tape library. The possibilities are endless!

Joshua asked the leaders of Israel to meet with him. The best method to recall what God had done in Joshua's day was orally, although much was written down (v. 6). Joshua reminded the leadership that his time for leading them is



Smyser

about to end. The Bible is not specific about how much time has passed but we do know that it is near the end of Joshua's 110 years of life (24:29).

Joshua's address said little about himself but plenty about the work of God among them. Joshua reminded the leaders of what God had

done through them. Everyone present could have given eyewitness accounts of how God accomplished what he promised! Most of the land was occupied and controlled by Israel. There were still some people remaining (v. 4) and God promised to drive them out (v. 5). God would empower them to finish what he had started!

How would you address your family, friends, and neighbors regarding God's faithfulness in your life?

Remember to carefully obey God's directions (v. 6). Compare and contrast verse six with Joshua 1:7-8. Joshua shared

how to live a life pleasing to God in both passages. The people were to continue to trust the Lord and obey his commands.

Consistency in the Christian life is crucial. How many times have you been reminded to pray, read your Bible daily, and obey the Lord? Today we can rely upon direction from God by the consistent, daily, and systematic study of scripture! What kind of Bible reading plan do you use?

How has scripture kept your life on the right path?

Remember to love the Lord (vv. 8-11). I recall my parents reminding me, "you will become like those with whom you spend the most time." Joshua first warned the people (v. 7) in a similar fashion to how my parents warned me. Bad associations with people from other nations would be a constant problem for Israel. Israel must learn not to hold on to things or people that would prevent them from enjoying a close relationship with God.

We see a powerful reminder of how God can use his people as they are obedient in verse 10. God had worked in mighty ways among Israel. Joshua challenged Israel's leaders to maintain an intimate relationship with God! We should be challenged to do the same! May we truly know him (Phil 3:10) anew and fresh each day. Our love will grow for God as we get to know him better.

Remember the Lord's promises (v. 14). Joshua issued a stern warning regarding failure to keep the Lord's commands (vv. 12-13). He offered encouragement and assurance that God would keep his promises.

Have you kept all the promises you have made in your life? Powerful words (23:14) state clearly that God has kept and will keep all his promises! Christians today can be assured God does the same for us (2 Cor. 1:20) and you can count on it!

Smyser is associate pastor of First Church, Starkville.

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

Different convictions

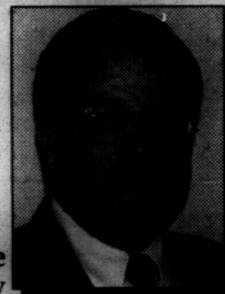
1 Corinthians 8:1-13

By Neel Grantham

Once again we find the Apostle Paul answering a question from the Corinthian church. Evidently some personal relationships had been hurt over eating meat that had been sacrificed to idols. We are warned in this chapter not to let our freedom become a stumbling block for other believers. This is slightly different from the world's view. The world says "who cares what anyone else thinks? You want to do something, do it." Our Lord calls for a different standard than that. Believers should have a greater sense of responsibility. Our goal is edification, not destruction.

Guiding principle (vv. 1-3). Exactly how far can our Christian liberty be taken? That

seems to be the question dealt with in this chapter. If we become more concerned with our rights than the effect it has on others, then it becomes a complication. This problem stems from pride and unthoughtfulness. Back in 6:12 we read, "All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient." Our love for our brothers should guide our lives in these matters. If we think our action's might cause another to stumble, our love should override our knowledge. I think what vv. 2-3 teaches is knowledge without



Grantham

love is knowledge that is lacking. After all, the scriptures say, "knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth" (8:1).

Spiritual knowledge (vv. 4-6). For new believers it is sometimes hard to separate sound biblical doctrine from past beliefs and experiences.

This is also true for those who have been believers for awhile but have not been grounded in the Word. We need the spiritual knowledge to separate the world's views from God's views. They are different, though you may not be able to tell it by some Christians or even some churches. For the Corinthians, some had not shaken off their thoughts and ideas about food sacrificed to idols. It was almost superstitious. They had not come to the knowledge that idols are really nothing at all, since there is only one true and living God.

Potential damage (vv. 7-12). According to Vines Expository Dictionary, the conscience mentioned in these verses deals with the ability to distinguish clearly between the lawful and the unlawful. The weak conscience then would not be able to make those distinctions. Mature believers need to understand the influence they have on the lives of others. If someone knowingly does something that would challenge the weak conscience of a brother, it may cause the weaker brother to sin. The weaker brother may go ahead against his conscience and do what he sees the mature believer doing.

Romans 14 deals with a very similar situation concerning whether or not it is lawful to eat meat or only vegetables. We are not to judge others about such disputable matters. Instead, out of love, let us abstain from an influence that would harm others. Romans 14:23b reads, "For

whatever is not of faith is sin." So the weaker brother sins if he does something against his conscience.

Decisive conclusion (v. 13). Have your own way is not how to show your love for others, especially if it means harming someone else. Some examples for us today might include social drinking, wine with meals, tobacco use, casino gambling, casino meals without gambling, R-rated movies, lotteries, and others. We should strive to follow Paul's example here. Let us determine not to be a stumbling block for another believer. The spiritual well-being of others should always come before our own desires, even if it is lawful for us. Paul would never eat meat again if he knew it would cause anyone to stumble. Maybe this is another way to practice "Love thy neighbor as thyself."

Grantham is pastor of Pineview Church, Clinton.

LIFE AND WORK

What about heaven?

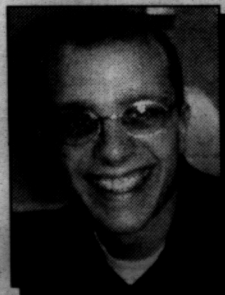
Revelation 21:1-4, 9-11, 18-19, 21; 22:1-5

By Michael Jones

There have been movies made which have tried to depict what heaven will be like. None of these can even begin to come close to what heaven will truly be like when we get there. Will we have our same body? Will we know our family? Will we be able to remember friends here on earth? These are all questions which may arise when we begin to ponder what heaven will be like. Our lesson today does not attempt to answer any of these kinds of questions about heaven. Instead, we are going to look at exactly what the bible teaches

about the glory of heaven. That is, that heaven will have the full glory of God's presence and blessings but none of the sorrows of our present time. So, what will heaven be like?

Everything new (21:1-4). "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth." This is the way John begins to describe what heaven will be like. He describes it as new. How is it new? John describes two distinct ways in which it will be new. First, is that God's dwelling place will be with man. God, himself, will be with humanity and will live with us.



Jones

The second description of the new to come is in two simple words, "no more," as in, no more death or mourning or crying or pain.

Warren Wiersbee, in relating to this passage, says we know that even now God lives within his people through the Holy Spirit. However, we can

not begin to understand God or really fellowship with him like we will when we will live in his presence and fellowship with him forever. We also can not begin to comprehend the glory of the new heaven without sorrow, pain, and death. In our times of sorrow and suffering, we should rejoice that in heaven there will be no such things.

Beautiful beyond description (21:9-11, 18-19, 21). As the angel showed John the Holy City, we can just imagine how

John marveled. The sight was so brilliant that the only way he could describe it was to use the imagery of precious things such as gold, pearls, and jewels. How beautiful that sight must have been for John to see. How beautiful it is going to be when at last we see it. Even though John uses descriptions of precious jewels, crystal, pure gold, and gates of pearl, this description still can not do justice to the beauty which awaits us.

Paradise restored (22:1-3). In heaven, all that was lost when sin entered into the world will be restored. Sin will be no longer and its curse will be wiped away. The river of the water of life will make the tree of life bear fruit. The river and the tree of life are both symbols of the abundant life and freedom which we will have in heaven. We will have freedom to fellowship with God and

serve him. Paradise will be restored, the way God intended.

God's presence enjoyed (22:4-5). We at last will see God's face in heaven. Can you imagine what a beautiful sight that will be? We will see his face and live the rest of our life in the light of his glory.

Though our lesson today, we do not know if we will know our families and friends or even what our bodies will look like. But, we are given hope and reason to rejoice in what we have learned about heaven. Everything will be new. We will be living in complete fellowship with God, serving him in a wonderful city that is beyond description. There will be no more sorrows or tears. How wonderful our God is to prepare for us a place to enjoy.

Jones is associate pastor/youth minister at Monticello Church, Monticello.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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BC-Gloster
Mr. Fred Broome
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Elizabeth Browning
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Mr. James A. Harper
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*The Staff and Children invite you to
The Baptist Children's Village*

Open House

*Farrow Manor Campus
150 Farrow Manor Drive
Coldwater, Mississippi*

April 9, 2000

2-4 p.m.

*Tours • Refreshments • Information
Call (601) 922-2242 for information*

Lou Willie Doss
Mrs. J. B. Lewis
Mrs. Lou Pickle Doss
Ms. Sarah L. Cheek
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The Steve Bingham Family
Mr. James Graves
Ms. Beatrice Brownlee
The Robert Sullivan Family

*The Staff and Children invite you to
The Baptist Children's Village
Northeast Mississippi Family
Ministry Area Conference*

Hosted by First Baptist Church, Baldwin

Monday, April 17, 2000

6:30 p.m.

*Informative program following dinner
R.S.V.P. (601) 922-2242*

Library porno is common, study finds

WASHINGTON (BP) — The viewing of pornography on the Internet by adults and minors is common in many of the country's public libraries, according to a nationwide survey by an Oregon librarian.

More than 2,000 documented incidents of library patrons accessing pornography, obscenity, and child pornography were found in a six-month investigation, author David Burt said in his recently released report for the Family Research Council.

Although nearly all public library systems in the country were contacted with Freedom of Information Act requests, only 29% responded to Burt's survey. Based on the responses, plus his analysis of computer log files from three urban libraries that uncovered thousands of unreported incidents, the separate incidents of library patrons viewing pornography on the Internet could total from 400,000 to 2 million a year, Burt estimated.

The report cites 472 instances of children at libraries accessing pornography and 106 cases of adults exposing children to porn.

More than 170 of the incidents found by Burt described criminal offenses such as public masturbation and accessing obscenity or child pornography at libraries, but the police were notified in only six of these cases. Burt's entire report can be viewed on the Internet at www.filteringfacts.org.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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MROE DRHZZ UKM ECK
CKM CP MRO DEBHCQ-
QKOD: EOH, MRO MSAO
JCAOMR, MRHM TRCD-
COLOW YSZZOMR ECK
TSZZ MRSBY MRHM RO
NCOMR QCN DOWLSJO.

XCRB DSBMOOB: MTC

Clue: T = W

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Amos Nine: Two.

Pornography use rising among Americans

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (BP) — Two surveys of Internet pornography use show a growing addiction ensnaring millions of Americans and threatening the health of the church, public safety, and national productivity.

Both studies found that a fifth of American adults visit sexually oriented websites, leading many into compulsive behavior. An official for the Family Research Council links that to such problems as sex crimes, abortion, and marital discord.

Released March 21, the latest survey of more than 1,000 adults reveals 20% of American adults — as many as 40 million — click on sexually oriented websites. Conducted March 8-10 by the New York-based polling firm of Zogby International, the study was commissioned by Focus on the Family.

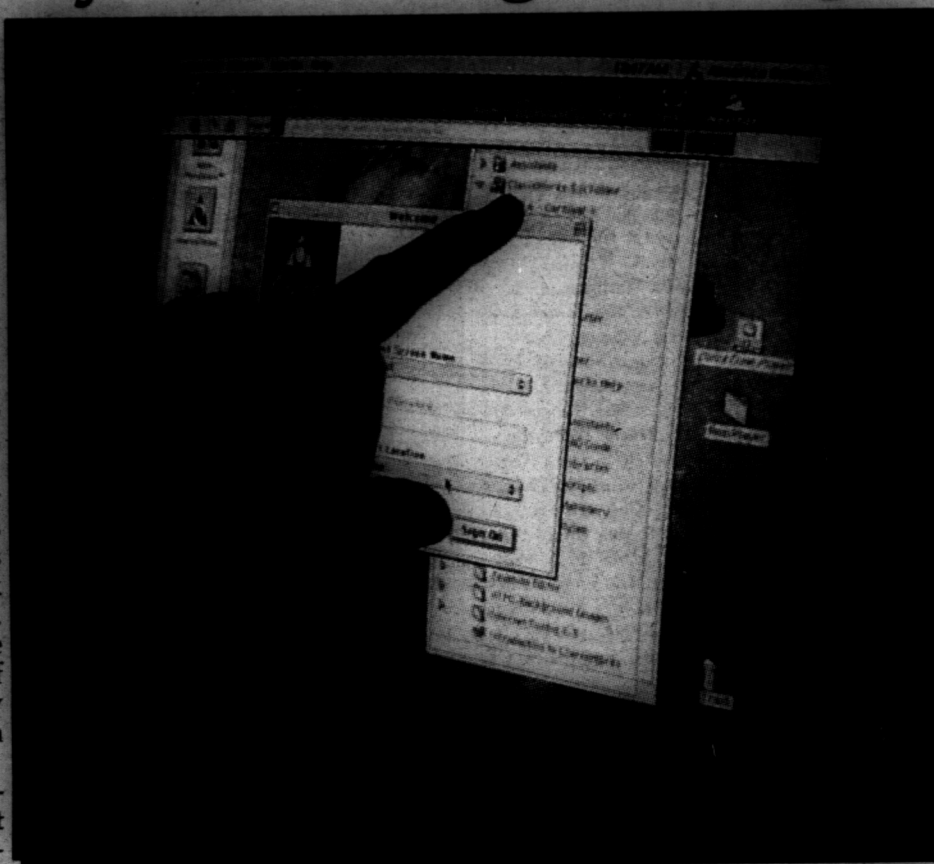
Eighteen percent of respondents who are married visit such sites. Almost the same percentage who called themselves born-again Christians told Zogby they indulge in online pornography.

However, since Christians represented just a fifth of the respondents, the statistical sample is too small to yield an accurate estimate of the number involved, said Steve Watters, an Internet research analyst at Focus on the Family. Still, he said it is clear pornography represents a growing problem that the church needs to address.

The Colorado Springs, Colo., ministry receives 100 calls, letters, and e-mails a month about porn-related issues. One of every five calls to its pastoral care line deals with pornography or Internet problems, he said.

"One of 10 people you see in your church will have visited a sexually oriented website," Watters said. "If churches recognize this, we hope it will be easier to bring up in Sunday school and accountability groups."

"What we hear from counselors is people don't get help until they get caught. We hope the church will take a proactive stance and help ward off problems before they get seri-



ous. We suspect it is a growing problem."

Ironically, while millions are lured by the idea of finding sexual fulfillment, nearly two-thirds of those polled agree that isn't possible.

In addition, increasing numbers of people are contacting the ministry, complaining of online porn damaging their marital relationship, Watters said.

"Viewing pornographic images online or trading intimate messages in chat rooms may seem like 'harmless entertainment' at first," noted James Dobson, founder of Focus on the Family.

"However, these activities can quickly lead to the addiction and compulsive behavior that poison relationships in the real world. Many marriages have already been destroyed as men and women have been lured away from their spouses by online fantasies."

The Zogby poll parallels the findings of another study conducted by researchers from Stanford and Duquesne universities. It found a minimum of 20% of American adults visit sexually explicit sites.

Although the authors only classified 1% of users as "cyber sex compulsives," that represents at least 200,000 people, based on an estimated 20 million people visiting porn sites each month. They defined compulsive as spending at least 11 hours a week in such activity.

In addition, much greater numbers of people are at risk, said lead investigator Al Cooper of Stanford. He is also affiliated with the San Jose Marital and Sexuality Centre.

"There is indeed a significant minority [8-17% of the sample] for whom online sexual behaviors may become a potentially serious problem," Cooper said. "[They] demonstrate a number of compulsive and otherwise worrisome indicators."

Statistics came from nearly 9,300 respondents who completed a 59-item survey on the MSNBC website in March and April of 1998. A

full report will appear March 29 in *Sexual Addiction and Compulsion: The Journal of Treatment and Prevention*.

Among its key findings:

- 70% indicated they keep their online sex usage a secret. Cooper calls that alarming, telling MSNBC, "Denial and secrecy are what keep an addiction going."

- The Internet offers a new, powerful place to act out behavior, and significant numbers of people who never had problems before are at risk of developing difficulties because of the ease of using search engines.

- 70% of e-porn traffic occurs between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on workdays. Twenty percent of men and 12% of women use their work computer to access online sexual material.

- The problem is largely male. Men represented 83% of the users visiting the top five sexually explicit websites. While men preferred visually oriented material by a 49-22% margin over women, females favored sex-oriented talk in chat rooms.

Porn addict turns life around; now helping others

WICHITA, Kan. (BP) — Even though his use of pornography culminated in his forced resignation from a church staff in 1997, a Christian counselor believes it is possible to find healing from the addiction.

"I don't buy the 'once an addict, always an addict' mentality," said Steve Fetrow. "I don't think the answer is behavior modification. It's surrendering to Christ."

Since stepping down as youth pastor of a nondenominational church, Fetrow began doctoral studies on sexual addiction. For the past year, he has also served as counseling director for a Wichita, Kan., church. Among about 40 people he has seen, more than 90% have been men — and 25% have been pastors.

Fetrow is often asked whether men trying to quit this habit should tell their spouse or keep it secret to avoid damaging the marriage. He responds,

"The marriage is already ruined. The wife just doesn't know it. I encourage people to be honest, not rationalizing or minimizing it, or telling half-truths. For those in pornography, that's been a lifestyle."

For those whose problem is serious enough to seek counseling, Fetrow strongly believes in finding a Christian whose treatment is based on God's Word.

"If someone goes to a secular therapist, they'll probably use what I call 'castration,'" he said. "That's behavior modification techniques and 12-step groups. Then the rest of their life is spent living on the edge of a cliff, waiting for one step to fall over."

Since it is such a serious decision, Fetrow suggests carefully screening counselors' credentials, biblical approach, 11 and ethical background.

Pastors can help with referrals, he said. There are also referral networks. Among those he listed are the American

Association of Christian Counselors (800-526-8673 or www.aacc.net) and Focus on the Family (800-232-6459).

The time required in counseling will depend on how long and deeply a person has been involved, Fetrow added.

Accountability to a friend plays a strong role in recovery and avoiding danger. The selection needs to be "soaked in prayer," asking for the Lord's guidance, Fetrow said. He recommends considering existing, positive relationships as one source.

Fetrow has met weekly with a friend for the past three years. They ask each other about their relationship with God and spouse, temptations and struggles, and how they can help each other.

"If you're struggling with pornography, give your partner access to your computer and allow him to check it, unannounced, at any time," he said.

For John Wolf, accountability was crucial to his recovery. In addition to counseling, he needed a friend in which to confide, he said.

The Oklahoma City businessman bought a cell phone and called his partner daily for two years.

Wolf follows certain habits to avoid a relapse, even though it's been eight years since his habit was uncovered.

Among Wolf's favorite verses are Job 31:1, Ephesians 4:27, 1 Thessalonians 5:22, James 4:7 and 1 Corinthians 10:13. He likens knowing Scripture to Jesus overcoming Satan's temptation by quoting Scripture.

"A lot of times, I have found my ability to flee temptation is proportionate to my quiet time, my relationship with God," Wolf said.

"If I get real busy and avoid my quiet time, I see where temptation is strong."